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Attorney Docket No. 032739 M 093

P A T E N T

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the application of: ) **CONFIRMATION NO.: 8889**  
)  
Hirohito KONDO, et al. )  
)  
U.S. Serial No.: 10/730,908 ) Group Art Unit: 2853  
)  
Filed: December 10, 2003 ) Examiner: Sarah Al-Hashimi  
  
For: IMAGE FORMING APPARATUS

RESPONSE TO ELECTION OF SPECIES REQUIREMENT

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir :

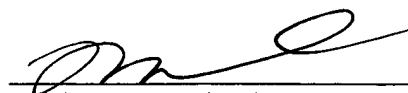
A response to the Office Action mailed February 25, 2008 is due by March 25, 2008. The Action required election among eight patentably distinct species of the claimed invention. Applicants hereby elect Species I, which relates to the embodiment drawn to Fig. 4, for examination in this application. Applicants advise that the elected species corresponds to claims 1, and 3-10.

Applicants reserve the right to file divisional application(s) for any non-elected claims in due course.

It is submitted that this application now is in condition for examination on the merits and early action in that regard is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,  
SMITH, GAMBRELL & RUSSELL, LLP

By:

  
Michael A. Makuch, Reg. No. 32,263  
1130 Connecticut Avenue, NW – Suite 1130  
Washington, D.C. 20036  
Telephone: (202)263-4300  
Facsimile: (202) 263-4329

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